for combating the organised poachers. Assistance is also provided for giving rewards to the informers for eliciting information about poachers and smugglers.

(iv) A Special Coordination and Enforcement Committee has been set up under the chairmanship of Secretary, Environment & Forests, Government of India, for control of poaching and illegal trade in wildlife.

(v) Export of wild animals and their derivatives is prohibited under EXIM policy.

(vi) Ministry of Home Affairs has written to all the State Governments to lend a helping hand to the field formations to curb poaching and illegal trade in wildlife.

(3) *International level*

(i) Government of India is a signatory to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES) for control of illegal trade in wildlife items.

(ii) Bilateral agreements have been signed with Nepal and Republic of China for controlling trans-boundary illegal trade in wildlife.

(iii) A Global Tiger Forum of Tiger Range Countries has been created for addressing international issues related to Tiger Conservation.

Environmental Damage by Advertisements

1106. SHRI BHAGAT RAM MANHAR:
PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM:
SHRI RAJU PARMAR:
SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court imposed penalty in the recent past on Pepsi, Coca Cola, Birla White Cement and other companies for causing damage to environment in Rohtang Pass, by way of painting advertisements on rocks; if so whether these companies have paid penalties;

(b) what are the contents of the Supreme Court order and the action taken by Government in this regard;

(c) whether Government have formulated set rules, to be followed strictly in future, in this regard;

(d) whether a committee which went into this, had confirmed that these companies have further damaged rocks while trying to remove advertisements from the rocks; and

(e) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (e) Supreme Court by their interim order dated: 26.9.2002 in Interlocutory Application No. 780 of 2002 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 202 of 1995 has directed the payment of Rs. 1.00 Crore by the advertisers including Pepsi, Coca Cola, Birla White Cement and other companies, who had put up advertisements on rocks in Rohtang-pass, for restoration of the area. The Central Empowered Committee (CEC) has been given the responsibility of over-seeing repairing work of the damage done.

Increased Investment-Limit for New Environmental Project

1107. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have effected a change in the Environmental Impact Assessment Notification, 1994, which raises the investment-limit for new projects, from Rs. 50 crore to Rs. 100 crore;

(b) if so, whether the Ministry of Environment and Forests has identified around 16 categories of industries for relaxation;

(c) whether it would help to make the process simpler and quicker; and

(d) if so, to what extent?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of India through a Notification No. S.O. 632(E) dated 13th June, 2002 brought out certain amendments to the Environmental Impact Assessment Notification (EIA) of 27th January, 1994 including raising the investment limit from Rs. 50 crores to Rs. 100 crores for 16 categories of new projects listed under Schedule-I of the said EIA Notification. The list includes infrastructure, thermal power, nuclear power and river valley projects also.